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APPLICATION

10

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

15

SPECIFICATION

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TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

25 BE IT KNOWN THAT I, JASON W. DRIVER, a citizen of UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful LIGHT BULB
MOUNTING ASSEMBLY of which the following is a specification:

LIGHT BULB MOUNTING ASSEMBLY

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to light bulb mounting devices and more particularly pertains to a new light bulb mounting device for mounting a light bulb socket to a stake.

15 Description of the Prior Art

The use of light bulb mounting devices is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 5,570,952 describes a device for running a power cord through the top end of a stake for mounting a light socket, electrically
20 coupled to the power cord, to the stake. Another type of light bulb mounting device is U.S. Patent No. 6,398,391 having a housing into which the light socket is extended before the upper of a stake is then extended into an opposite end of the housing. In this manner, the socket is coupled to the stake. In yet another example, U.S. Patent No. 5,036,447 includes a
25 stack into which a particularly designed light socket clips so that the light socket is attached to the stake.

While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a device that more efficiently, and
30 securely, attaches a light socket to a stake. This is necessary for providing a user of the lights more freedom in determining if the lights are to hung

on a vertical surface or tree, or if the lights should be positioned on a stake so that they are positioned generally adjacent to a ground surface.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention meets the needs presented above by generally comprising a socket assembly that has a bottom wall and a peripheral wall that is attached to and extends upwardly from the bottom wall. The
10 peripheral wall has an upper edge defining an opening extending into the socket. The opening has an inner threaded surface adapted for threadably coupling with a light bulb. The opening has a pair of electrical contacts therein. A power cord extends through the socket assembly and is electrically coupled to each of the electrical contacts. A male coupler is
15 attached to a surface of the bottom wall and extends downwardly therefrom. A stake has a bottom end, a top end and a perimeter wall extending between the top and bottom ends. The bottom end is pointed and the top end is substantially flat. The top end has a female coupler extending therein for selectively coupling with the male coupler.

20 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional
25 features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity
30 in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference
5 to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a light bulb mounting assembly according to the present invention.

10 Figure 2 is a side view of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a side view of the socket assembly of the present invention.

15 Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 of figure 2 of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view of the socket assembly of the present invention.

20 Figure 6 is a perspective view of a stake of the present invention.

Figure 7 is a schematic perspective view of the present invention.

25 **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 7 thereof, a new light bulb mounting device embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated
30 by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 7, the light bulb mounting assembly 10 generally comprises a plurality of socket assemblies 12 that each have a bottom wall 14 and a peripheral wall 16 that is attached to and

extends upwardly from the bottom wall 14. Each of the peripheral walls 16 of the socket assemblies 12 has an upper edge 18 defining an opening 20 extending into the socket. The openings 20 each have an inner threaded surface 22 adapted for threadably coupling with a light bulb 8. A power
5 24 cord extends through each of the socket assemblies 12. Each of the socket assemblies 12 has a pair of electrical contacts 26, 28 mounted within a corresponding one of the openings 20 and each of the electrical contacts 26, 28 is electrically coupled to the power cord 24.

10 In particular, it is preferred that each of the socket assemblies 12 includes an outer covering 30 having an upper open end 31 and a bottom open end 32. The peripheral wall 16 extends between the upper 31 and bottom 32 open ends. A bridge 33 is mounted in and extends across the covering 30. The bridge 33 is positioned nearer the bottom open end 32
15 than the top open end 31. A first contact 26 of the pair of contacts is mounted in the bridge 33 and has a first end 34 extending downwardly away from the bridge 33 and a second end 35 mounted on the bridge 33. A second contact 28 of the pair of contacts is mounted in the bridge 33 and has a first end 36 extending downwardly away from the bridge 33 and a
20 second end 37 extending upwardly along an inner surface of the covering 30. Each of the first ends 34, 36 of the first 26 and second 28 contacts is preferably pointed and each extends into the power cord 24. A cap member 40 includes the bottom wall 14 and a pair of arms 41 extending upwardly from the bottom wall 14. The arms 41 may be extended
25 upwardly through the bottom open end 32 on either side of the bridge 33 such that the arms 41 are removably secured in the covering 30. This may be done with interlocking shoulders 42. Each of the arms 41 has an inside surface 43 facing each other. The inside surfaces 43 are threaded for threadably coupling with the light bulb 8. A gripping 44, or aligning,
30 member is attached to the bottom wall 14 and is positioned between the

arms 41. The gripping member 44 has elongated channels 45 therein for receiving the power cord 24. The gripping member 44 biases the power cord 24 against the first ends 34, 36 of the first 26 and second 28 contacts so that the first ends 34, 36 puncture the power cord 24 and are thereby
5 electrically coupled to the power cord 24.

Each of a plurality of male couplers 50 is attached to a surface of the bottom wall 16 and extends downwardly therefrom. Each of the male couplers 50 preferably comprises a threaded rod.

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A plurality of stakes 52 has a bottom end 53, a top end 54 and a perimeter wall 55 extends between the top 54 and bottom ends 53. Each of the bottom ends 53 is pointed and each of the top ends 54 is substantially flat. Each of the top ends 54 has a female coupler 55 extending therein.

15 The female couplers 55 each comprise a threaded well adapted for threadably coupling with one of the male couplers 50. A plurality of flanges 56 is attached to and extends outwardly from each of the perimeter walls 55. The flanges 56 each extend from and taper from a respective one of the top ends 54 to the bottom ends 53 such that each of the flanges 56
20 ends adjacent to the bottom ends 53. The plurality of flanges 56 is preferably four flanges 56 attached to each of the stakes 52.

In use, the above description may be used for one socket assembly 12 and one stake 52 or a plurality of sockets assemblies 12 and stakes.

25 The male coupler 50 allows the socket assembly 12 to be selectively removed from the stakes 52 with minimal effort. Thus, if a person wishes to hang the lights 8, they may do so, or they may attach the socket assemblies 12 to the stakes 52 so that they may be staked into a ground surface. The socket assemblies 12 may be configured to hold any

conventional light bulb, though it is preferred that low wattage holiday lights are utilized.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that
5 the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to
include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of
operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to
one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated
in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be
10 encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the
principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and
changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to
15 limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and
described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may
be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.